

The Academy Connection

Where South Carolina Law Enforcement Training is Defined

S O U T H C A R O L I N A
C R I M I N A L J U S T I C E A C A D E M Y



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Director's Message Hubert F. Harrell

I cannot help but mention the fact that we are seeing more officer involved shootings than in past years. The Charleston County Sheriff's Department lost a seasoned officer to gunshot wounds suffered while responding to a disturbance. Officer Joe Matuskovic was killed by a person who fired through a door while deputies were responding to a call. Deputy Michael Ackerman was also wounded by the same person. Our prayers go out for those families. In 2013, 35 Officers were killed by gunfire in our nation. The average salary for a law enforcement officer in South Carolina is reported to be \$37,000 per year, many earn much less. It would seem hardly worth dying for, but, monetary gain is not why we do what we do. Yet we are held to a much higher standard of conduct and behavior than most professions because we are charged with keeping the peace and have the authority to take a citizen's freedom. When we fall short of our obligation to the community we serve, and abuse our authority, we are called to answer for our actions and rightfully so.

I mention these things because of the gravity of our responsibility to train young men and women to fulfill their obligations to our communities, as they have sworn to do. Integrity and honesty are the cornerstones of our profession and traits that must be exhibited from the Chief on down to the patrol officer. While we can train them to a certain degree, we cannot be there to make decisions for them, and we must hope that we have done our job well enough that they will survive encounters with those who would do them harm. We are limited by a lack of funding and time to train recruits as well as we would like to.

We must however, try to educate the community, as well, which includes the media. We must help them to understand what we are actually tasked to do and how we prepare to take on that task. Our staff is particularly diligent in keeping the media informed concerning the facts and not the movie version of a police officer's responsibility. We have one of the best in the business in Major Florence McCants who works diligently to provide



factual information to the media, when requested, always keeping our mission as clear-cut as possible. The media reports what has happened, after the fact. They are seldom there to witness the occurrence or the situations leading up to the incident that they are reporting. Therefore they must fill in the blocks and we prefer that they do it with the facts. Good job Major McCants.

We are currently working on our information security plan, in conjunction with the state, to insure that we protect our records. I want to caution everyone who has a social media account to check it frequently, as my

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Director's Message Continued

Facebook page was hacked last month. The account was inactive and I subsequently had it shutdown. Thanks Rodney (the I/T guy) for your help. Those individuals who do that type of thing, with criminal intent, seem to be more active than ever, so I caution everyone here to be vigilant about the information you put on line about you and your family. In particular, be careful with the information you put on your work computers which might allow hackers to infiltrate our system. I really have to commend Rodney and Mark for their hard work and diligence in keeping our system safe.

The Academy is looking better than it ever has and facilities is doing all they can to keep the lights on, the water hot and the sheets clean. I used to get mega complaints from the students about their accommodations, but that has declined considerably thanks to the efforts of our facilities staff.

I hope everyone is taking advantage of the services offered by Nurse Nancy Geib. She is trying to improve the health of our staff by offering flu shots and blood pressure checks. She is certainly a welcome addition to our staff and we appreciate her efforts to help us improve our quality of life.

Traffic Safety Officer's Conference

The 9th Annual Traffic Safety Officer's Conference was held on July 21-23, 2014 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia, South Carolina. The conference featured speakers on topics such as Collision Reconstruction, Commercial Motor Vehicles, Impaired Driving, Officer Safety/Survival, and K9s and Traffic Stops. Senator Joel Lourie and Ruth Ann Cartwright discussed Emma's Law that went into effect October 1, 2014 and the Ignition Interlock Device.

During the awards portion of the conference there were 7 Traffic Safety Instructor awards and 33 Traffic Safety Officer awards. For those who are not familiar with the requirements for either the Traffic Safety Officer or the Traffic Safety Instructor awards they are as follows:

TSO – Speed Measuring Device Operator, SFST, DMT, At-Scene Collision Investigation, Technical Collision Investigation, and Collision Reconstruction.

TSI – SMD Instructor, SFST Instructor, the three previously stated collision classes, Basic Instructor Development, and two of the advanced reconstruction classes (Pedestrian/Bicycle Reconstruction, Motorcycle Reconstruction and/or Commercial Motor Vehicle Reconstruction).

Thanks to the SCCJA Traffic Safety Unit for all their hard work on making this conference successful.

JP Strom Award Winners July–September 2014



BLE 618
Christopher A. Rager
Charleston County Sheriff's Office



BLE 619
John J. Pearson
Clemson University Police Department



BLE 620
Scott A. Hess
Myrtle Beach Police Department



BLE 621
Thomas G. Williams
Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office

Bert Friday Award Winners July–September 2014



BJ 343
Bradley W. Lebo
Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center

Basic Class Information

Basic Law Classes

B 622 July 21 — October 10, 2014
 B 623 August 11— October 31, 2014
 B 624 September 1— November 21, 2014
 B 625 September 22 — December 19, 2014
 B 626 October 13, 2014 — January 23, 2015
 B 627 November 3, 2014 — February 13, 2015
 B 628 December 1, 2014 — March 6, 2015
 B 629 January 5, 2015— March 27, 2015

Limited Duty October 20—30, 2014

Basic Detention Classes

BD 344 September 29— October 17, 2014
 BD 345 October 27— November 14, 2014
 BD 346 December 1— 19, 2014
 BD 347 January 12 — 30, 2015

Basic TCO (formerly E-911)

BTOT 190 November 10—21, 2014
 BTOT 191 December 8—19, 2014
 BTOT 192 January 12— 23, 2015

BASIC LAW SFST DRINKING LAB

With the addition of SFST and Datamaster DMT classes in the new 12 week basic training curriculum, it will be necessary to ask the field to assist us with volunteer drinkers. I believe this training will assist officers in not only DUI detection, but also help officers to recognize when subjects are impaired. This can make a huge difference in what approach an officer will take when handling various situations. We need approximately 250 volunteers per year. I know this sounds like a lot, but that is less than one percent of South Carolina's police population. If you can be of assistance or have any questions please contact Michael Brantley of the Traffic Safety Unit at (803)896-7791 jmbrantley@sccja.sc.gov or Dale Smith at (803) 896-5556 desmith@sccja.sc.gov.

Below you will find a list of dates we need volunteers. We can provide rooms to any volunteer who will need to travel and stay overnight. Alcohol and meals are provided for all volunteers; however, if they desire to bring their own alcohol that is permitted.

Dates for BLE Drinking Lab 2014-2015

October 22nd & 23rd 2014
 November 12th & 13th 2014
 December 10th & 11th 2014
 January 14th & 15th 2015
 February 4th & 5th 2015
 February 25th & 26th 2015
 March 18th & 19th 2015
 April 8th & 9th 2015
 April 29th & 30th 2015
 May 20th & 21st 2015
 June 10th & 11th 2015



Welcome Our New Employees



Chad Culberston
Facilities Management



Edward Lopes
Misconduct



Pictured above are SLED/SCCJA staff and family members who participated in the run.

TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK SOUTH CAROLINA

As our nation prepared to mark the twelfth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, hundreds showed up to support Lexington Medical Center, first responders, military members and families of fallen heroes in an unforgettable, patriotic experience. The run/walk took place on Friday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Columbia's Congaree Vista. It was the first event of its kind in South Carolina, designed to celebrate and appreciate first responders, who serve, save and sacrifice on our behalf every day.

The Tunnel to Towers Run & Walk Series was created to honor the heroic life and death of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter (FDNY) who lost his life on September 11, 2001, after strapping on his gear and running through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers. Honor all of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and support our first responders and military who make extraordinary sacrifices in the line of duty everyday!